DHHS Budget Initiative – Reimburse Only LCSW's for Dual-Eligibles

Behavioral Health Services for Dual-Eligible Members

Currently dual-eligible members, those who are both Medicare and MaineCare eligible, may receive Behavioral Health Services from either a License Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC), or a License Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) who can be reimbursed for their services.

Unlike MaineCare, Medicare reimburses only LCSW's for Behavioral Health Services.

Initiative

Currently, Maine reimburses for LCSWs as well as LMFTs and LCPCs for Behavioral Health Services for dual-eligible members – this initiative would require Behavioral Health Services to dual-eligible members to be provided by an LCSW in order to receive reimbursement. This aligns with Medicare, and ensures that MaineCare is the payor of last resort, which is the design of the system.

Savings:

Year	State	Federal	Total
SFY 13	\$825,000	\$1,389,765	\$2,214,765
SFY 14	\$3,300,000	\$5,314,005	\$8,614,005
SFY 15	\$3,300,000	\$5,282,575	\$8,582,575

Impact

- MaineCare's current enrollment of providers includes 785 LCPCs, 34 LMFTs and 1,494 LCSWs.
- Past year history shows 3,200 dual-eligible members who received behavioral health services from a LMFT or LCPC. These members would need to shift these services to LCSW's.
- The Historical data shows about 575 LMFT's and LCPC's who provided behavioral health services for dual-eligible members. These, and other LMFT and LCPC providers would no longer be eligible to receive reimbursements for behavioral health services for the dualeligible population
- In a case where services are geographically inaccessible (usually considered more than 30 minutes or more of travel) the member can request an exemption in writing from the Department.